

BLACK-HANDERS' DEMANDS DRIVE MAN FROM TOWN

Wesley A. Kipp Deserts Sparkill With Family After Getting Threats.

\$800 OR DEATH, WAS ONE

Blackmailers Didn't Seek Money at Tree They Named as Hiding Place.

Wesley A. Kipp, of Sparkill, N. Y., has disappeared from that place under circumstances so unusual that all Rockland County is interested in ascertaining his whereabouts. Incidentally Mr. Kipp's friends in Sparkill and Nyack have organized a posse to hunt down a gang of threatening letter writers who are believed to be responsible for his absence.

The missing man is a lifelong resident of Rockland County, and in Sparkill, where he owned a grocery store, was very popular. For this reason his friends are at a loss to imagine who are the authors of the missives which Mr. Kipp is said to have received for the past month, menacing his life and that of his wife and child, unless he deposited money in a tree at a named spot near his grocery store. The last letter he got he showed to a few friends and told them that he was greatly alarmed about the affair. It demanded that \$800 be left in the tree designated by the letter writers at midnight on Tuesday last or he would be assassinated.

Vanished With Family.

That night Mr. Kipp vanished. The last clue furnished of his whereabouts comes from the station agent at the Erie depot, who saw the grocery man and his wife and eleven-year-old son board a late train for New York. Mr. Kipp appeared to be much agitated. The next morning his grocery store was closed and his friends, who visited his house to find out if he had left any letters which would throw light on his strange departure, found the place locked.

The Nyack and Sparkill police watched last night at the tree where the blackmailers were to call for the money, but no one appeared.

It is not believed by Mr. Kipp's friends that the author or authors of the letters were Italians, although they were signed, according to Mr. Kipp, "Black Hand." The spelling was good and the handwriting was such as to induce the belief that they were the work of a more or less educated person. Since Mr. Kipp's disappearance and the knowledge that blackmailers are probably local persons every one in the neighborhood is armed, and the whole section which is thickly settled with large estates and residences of wealthy New Yorkers, is in a state of panic.

FEATHERS VANISHED AS SLEUTHS WATCHED

Then They Got Trusted Foreman of Factory for \$8,000 Robbery.

Albert Klein, foreman of the bedding factory of Max Englander, at No. 154 West Nineteenth street, and Sidney Snyder, of No. 219 West Eighteenth street, were arrested today charged with the systematic robbery of their employer for more than a year. Englander declared to the police that more than \$8,000 worth of feathers was stolen from his place.

When Lieutenant-Detectives Frank Price, Schoenich and MacLaughlin were assigned to investigate the feather thefts they began to shadow Englander's employees. When they mentioned the fact to him that they suspected his foreman, Klein, Englander scoffed.

"He has been my trusted employee for years," said the manufacturer, "and I wouldn't suspect him of stealing so much as a pin feather."

The detectives last night posted themselves in a stable opposite the factory. They had not long to wait before Klein and Snyder came along. Klein opened the door and let his companion in. When Snyder came out, shouldering a 10-pound bag of feathers, the detectives nabbed both men.

At Police Headquarters both prisoners confessed. They also gave the names of men they had conspired with to steal feathers from them. They are David Silverman, of No. 115 Norfolk street, and Herman Priebe, of No. 110 Norfolk street. They were both arrested and admitted buying the feathers. They denied that they knew the feathers were stolen.

ONE TRAIN OUT OF SNOW. TWO OTHERS HELD.

DETROIT, Feb. 20.—The Wolverine Flyer, one of the Michigan Central's fast trains, which was buried in the snow near Comstock, was dug out last night and reached Kalamazoo. The Detroit to Kalamazoo Michigan Central accommodation train is now bound near Palmyra. Pere Marquette's passenger train from Grand Rapids to Saginaw, is reported snowbound near Kalamazoo.

JOSEPH SWAN DEAD AT 79.

Joseph Swan, senior member of the firm of Joseph Swan & Son, is dead at his home, No. 35 East Sixteenth street. Mr. Swan was seventy-nine years old and had been in business in New York more than half a century. He is survived by his widow, five daughters and his son, Seymour, who will continue the business.

PICKPOCKET TRADE SUFFERS A SLUMP

Nothing In It Now, Says "Dip," Who Is Arrested on Way From Prison.

There is nothing in picking pockets any more, lamented Solomon Goodman, who was arrested to-day as he departed from the Blackwell's Island boat in Brooklyn. He was pounced upon by two Central Office men.

Goodman had served six months for jostling a man on a surface car in this borough. At the time he was out on bail on a charge of robbing William Iselin, a carpenter, of No. 294 Varot street, Brooklyn, of a wallet containing \$8.01.

The policeman who arrested Goodman at that time declared he was one of the "likeliest" "dips" in the profession and that he had laid by a considerable fortune from the proceeds of his thefts. He is said to own a \$15,000 equity in a tenement house on Equity-sixth street, near Lexington avenue.

"There ain't anything in the game any more in this town," said the young man, as he was led to Raymond Street Jail. "I've been picking pockets since I was fourteen years old, and the business certainly used to be good. But the public has got wise. Now, if you jostle a man on a street car, he yells Murder, and they send you away for a year. All the good dippers are beating it away from New York, and the bunglers that are left have got the business on the piazza."

Goodman has served half a dozen terms in prison and if sentenced under the new harsh criminal law may be sent to Sing Sing for thirty or forty years.

DEAD FROM A BLOW RECEIVED IN FIGHT

James Fox Had Sneered at James Segrade's "White-wing" Uniform.

James Segrade, twenty-three years old, an employee of the Street Cleaning Department, was remanded to the custody of the Governor by Magistrate Crane, in Yorkville Court, following the death of James Fox, formerly a seaman on the American liner St. Paul, who died in the Flower Hospital from injuries received in a fight with Segrade.

Fox, in a new suit purchased with his savings of several trips across the Atlantic, was in the saloon of the St. Paul on Tuesday night, when Segrade walked in. Segrade wore a "White Wing" uniform, considerably soiled as a result of a day's hard work.

"It's about time you was keeping out of these streets," said Segrade to Fox.

"No respectable man will come into a saloon if you allow these fellows around."

Segrade resented the insult and told Fox to follow him outside. Fox complied. A battle lasting several minutes followed. It was concluded when Segrade landed heavily with his right on the point of Fox's nose. Fox tumbled in a heap, striking his head on the sharp edge of the curb stone. His skull was fractured and he never regained consciousness.

MAN'S BODY FOUND IN HUDSON RIVER.

Nothing About Clothing to Identify Victim, Dead Apparently Two Months.

The body of a man about forty-five years old was found off the foot of West Fifty-sixth street to-day. It had been in the water at least two months. No marks about the remnants of clothing clinging to the body indicated who the man was or how he came by his death.

Peter Barbas, of No. 324 West Fifty-second street, saw the body from the pier in the North River. With the aid of Policeman Terwilliger, of the West Forty-seventh street station, it was brought ashore.

The man was apparently 5 feet 8 inches in height and weighed 180 pounds. He had brown hair and was dressed in a much worn brown suit. The body was taken to the Morgue.

A POPULAR SONG HIT.

In "The Girl Behind the Counter," Lew Fields' musical comedy, at the Herald square, they sang "Will Walk with Me." It is the hit of the show. It is given in the Magazine Section of next Sunday's World—words and music. Order to-day.

STATIONERY. In Both Stores.

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